

Petition in Opposition of the Closure of the SIO Library Building

Tony D. Haymet
Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Gary C. Matthews
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Suresh Subramani
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Brian E.C. Schottlaender
University Librarian

Miriam Kastner
Chair, SIO Library Committee

Dear Mssrs. Haymet, Matthews, Subramani, and Schottlaender and Dear Ms. Kastner,

As students, faculty, and members of the community of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and the University of California, San Diego, it has come to our attention that university officials have recently proposed to close the SIO library building for the 2011/2012 fiscal year, as outlined in a publically available letter Mr. Schottlaender wrote, dated February 11, 2011.

We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to the proposed closure of the SIO library building. The historical value and legacy of the SIO library is unparalleled. We hold that its continued existence is essential to preserving, organizing, and providing access to the robust knowledge base of ocean, climate, and the earth sciences and the capacity of SIO scientists to perform meaningful and world-class research. Indeed, in our view, ensuring the operation of a library with such a profound history and rich pool of academic resources – as that at SIO – is key to maintaining a high quality, bustling research institution.

We find many concrete uses for the SIO library, including, but not limited to, access to: 1) SIO archives, publications, and course reserves; 2) scientific texts, literature, and journals; 3) charts and maps; 4) computers, printers, copiers, and scanners; 5) ample study and meeting space; and 6) an invaluable, informed, and engaged source of knowledge, librarian Amy Butros.

Lastly, we understand that budget constraints are forcing those in charge of the allocation of funds to make difficult, hard-thought decisions. However, we firmly and wholeheartedly believe that the proposed closure of the SIO library would be an unwise decision in the face of deep budget cuts – one that seems to consider neither its direct impact on students and faculty nor its inevitable long-term consequences on the status of SIO as a research institution.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned